



BridgeUSA

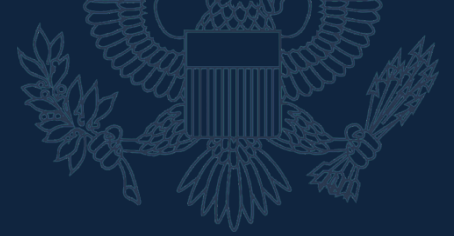
Early Career STEM Research Initiative

January 2022





BridgeUSA



Exchange Programs

BridgeUSA brings together current and emerging leaders through immersive cultural, educational, and professional exchange programs.

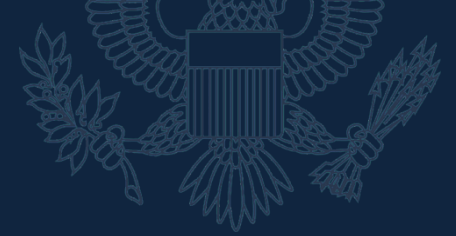
Making Lasting Connections

Exchange visitors build enduring bridges of friendship between peoples and nations and is a bridge to experiencing the United States and connecting with the world.





Exchange Visitor Experiences



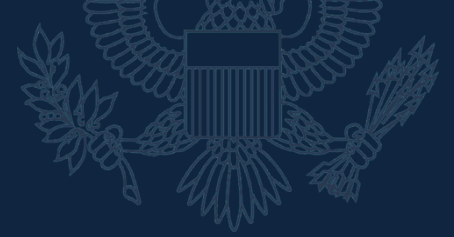
BridgeUSA is a network of global leaders who create lasting impact.

The program creates a network of global leaders equipped with the knowledge, tools and connections needed to thrive professionally and economically. They return home ready to create lasting impact in their communities and our world. Check out the first-person account from a past participant.





Host Opportunities



The Early Career STEM Research Initiative utilizes existing educational and cultural exchange programs. Host institutions interested in transforming their operations with international exchange will find an invaluable resource with the J-1 Visa.

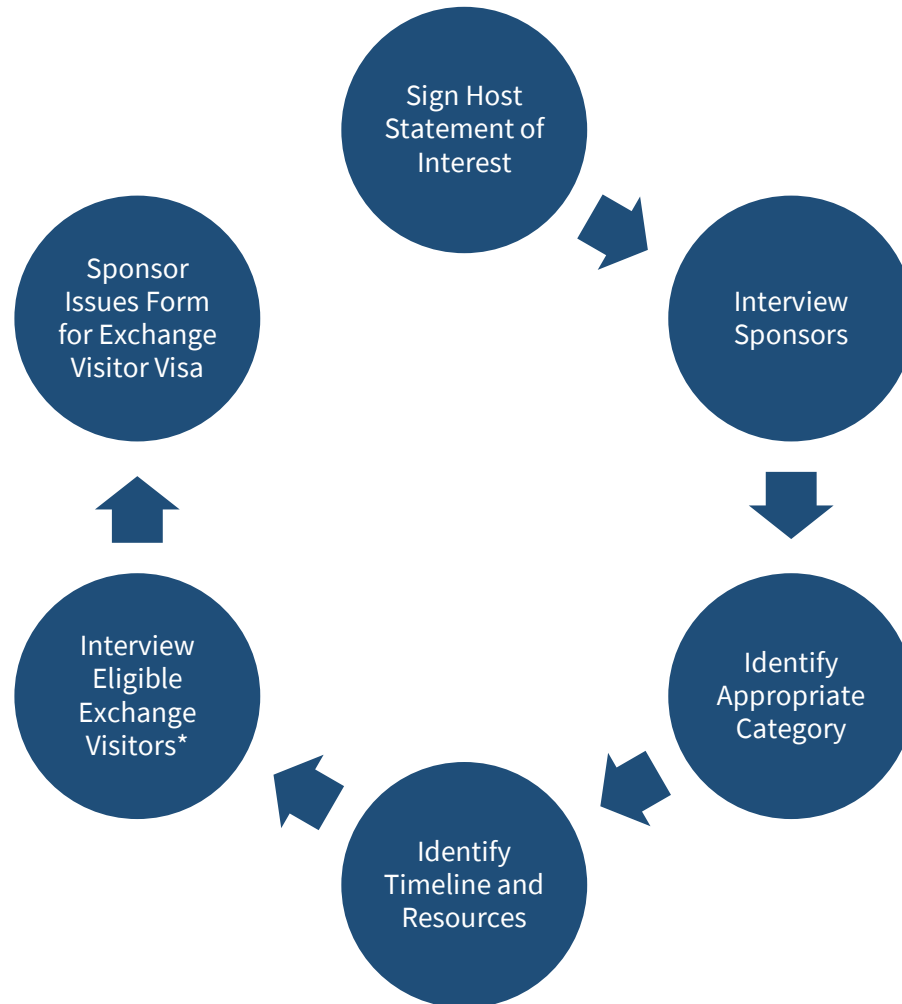
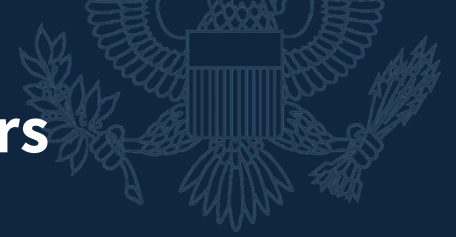
The program has 15 different exchange categories focused on education, research, or professional development, and all designed to achieve the foreign policy objective of increasing mutual understanding with other countries. Throughout their exchanges, participants hone existing skills and develop new ones, unlocking new personal and professional opportunities.

View [program requirements comparison chart](#) to see which category is right for you.

- [Research Scholar](#)
- [Short-Term Scholar](#)
- [Specialist](#)
- [Teacher](#)
- [College and University Student](#)
- [Intern](#)
- [Professor](#)
- [Trainee](#)



Process: Hosting STEM Exchange Visitors





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Step 1: Both STEM host organizations and sponsors sign the STEM Statement of Interest. The Statement serves as a mechanism to recognize the Initiative's active partners and allow them to self-identify for participation.

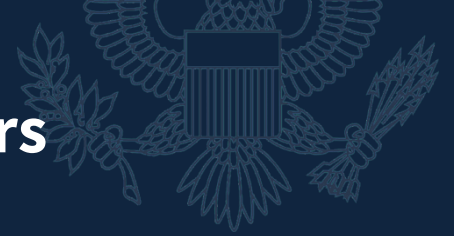
Step 2: BridgeUSA will share the names and specifics of interested host organizations with the interested sponsors. Following the introduction, sponsors and host organizations will follow their own internal procedures and the applicable regulations to operationalize an exchange.

Step 3: Host organizations enter into agreements with their selected sponsors to identify the appropriate J-1 category and eligible candidates.





Process: Hosting STEM Exchange Visitors



Step 4: STEM host organizations identify suitable positions, relevant educational and cultural exchange experiences, and resources, e.g., fully funding an exchange or offering a hybrid approach where the exchange visitor pays for some of the programming costs.

Step 5: Sponsors recruit, screen, and offer STEM host candidates to review for suitability, e.g., interviews and resume reviews.

Step 6: Once STEM host identifies the best match for their opportunity, the partnering sponsor will issue the necessary documents for the exchange visitor to apply for their J-1 visa.

Step 7: Upon arrival, the partnering sponsor will continue to monitor the exchange visitor's time with the STEM host organization.

Contact Information:

jvisas@state.gov

Office of Private Sector Exchange (ECA/EC)

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

U.S. Department of State

